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Docket No.: 1609.1001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Hitoshi IWASAKA et al.

Serial No. 09/930,159

Group Art Unit: 3749

Confirmation No. 1497

Filed: August 16, 2001

Examiner: RINEHART, KENNETH

For: NON-CONTACTING CONVEYANCE EQUIPMENT

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 11, 2003, and having a period for response set to expire on June 11, 2003.

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please REPLACE claims 4, 25 and 27 in accordance with the following:

4. (ONCE AMENDED) Non-contacting conveyance equipment according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of spouts face the inside of the concave opening such that the plurality of spouts together cause the swirl of fluid within the concave opening.

25. (ONCE AMENDED) Non-contacting conveyance equipment comprising:
a concave opening having a continuous walled inner peripheral surface;
an end face that opposes an object to be conveyed, the end face being formed in the concave opening; and
a fluid passageway comprising a spout facing the inside of the concave opening, the fluid passageway ending at an opening through the inner peripheral surface, to supply fluid to